

The Cheerful Letter

EVERY PLACE A CHURCH; EVERY DAY THE LORD'S DAY; ALL EVENTS BLESSINGS; ALL JOY
THANKSGIVING; AND ALL NATURE AND LIFE FULL OF GOD.—James Freeman Clarke.

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No. 10

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CONTENTS OF NO. 10.

AFTER WINTER	67
WHICH IS RIGHT?	67
TWO DAYS IN MARCH	67
FATHER'S OWN COLUMN:—	
HOW BIRDS HELP THE FARMER	68
THE BOOK AND MAGAZINE CLUB	68
THE MOTHERS' COUNCIL:—	
TEACHING THE BABY TO WALK	73
THE AMUSEMENT CORNER	73
CHILDREN'S CLASSICS:—	
ABOUT SOME IRISH FAIRIES (concluded)	73

AFTER WINTER.

A little bit of blowing,
A little bit of snow,
A little bit of growing,
And crocuses will show.
On every twig that's lonely
A new green leaf will spring,
On every patient treetop
A thrush will stop and sing.

A little bit of sleeting,
A little bit of rain,
The blue, blue sky for greeting
A snowdrop come again;
And every frozen hillside
Its gift of grass will bring,
And every day of winter,
Another day of spring.

—Carolyn S. Bailey.

WHICH IS RIGHT?

A Pessimist says, "This is the worst of
all possible worlds." An Optimist says,
"This is the best of all possible worlds."
Which is right?

The world is in the making. And the
Pessimist does not like to live in a world
that is in the making. He wants to live in
a finished world.

The Optimist is a pioneer. He likes to
live in a world that is in the making and to

help make it. He likes the old world to rest
in but the new world to live in. He likes to
spend a month in travelling on fine roads,
through a finished country, where the forests
have been cleared, the wild beasts killed or
driven away, the farms cultivated, the private
and public parks completed. But then he
wants to get back to his American home and
have a hand in clearing the forests, conquer-
ing the wild beasts, developing the farms.

It is this creative spirit which makes the
charm and the delight of motherhood. The
mother is a creator. She rejoices in little
children, not because they are perfect, but
because they are imperfect. She delights to
take the unknown being who is laid in her
arms and see what she can make of it; she
delights to minister to it, teach it, train it,
and make out of it a wise, strong, unselfish
man or woman.

This world is unfinished and therefore
imperfect. Creation, it has been well said,
is a process, not a product. The joys of
life belong to those who count themselves
honored by the fact that God calls on them
to help him in the work of finishing his
creation. He whose ambition is that of the
rich man in the parable, whose desire it is
to say to his soul, "Take thine ease; eat,
drink, and be merry," is in the worst of worlds
for his purpose.

A Pessimist and an Optimist were once
discussing this question. The Pessimist,
who was, as most Pessimists are, some-
thing of a cynic and egotist, brought, as
he thought, the discussion to a triumph-
ant conclusion by saying, "Well! I be-
lieve I could have made a better world than
this is myself." "True," replied the Opti-
mist; "that is what we are here for. Now
let us go out and do it."

"If one seeks happiness, it flees from him.
If he seeks an opportunity to render service,
happiness is his companion."—Rev. Lyman
Abbott in "The Outlook."

TWO DAYS IN MARCH.

March 19, 1815, David Livingstone, one of
the greatest explorers who ever lived, was
born in Scotland. When he was only ten
years old he went to work in a cotton-mill,
and some of his first wages were spent for

books. He was active and fond of adventure as well as of books,—a natural leader among the boys of the town. He had heard about the forlorn state of sick people in heathen countries and made up his mind to help them. He worked his way through school and college and earned a doctor's degree after years of persistent labor. Then he went to Africa, to carry at the same time relief for suffering bodies and good news for starving minds,—the Good News of a loving God who cares for all people in all lands.

More than thirty long years Livingstone spent exploring parts of inland Africa that no white man had ever seen before. His reports about that Unknown Land, its conditions and its resources, prepared the way for later advances of civilization into the wilderness. His unfailing goodness to the black natives, and his absolute fairness and faithfulness in all dealings with them, won their respect and their love, and prepared the way for them to believe in the goodness and faithfulness of God whose messenger he was.

March 29, 1483, another boy was born in Italy, with gifts destined to give other people an extraordinary amount of pleasure. This was Raphael Sanzio, one of the most widely known artists in the world. Raphael had, in specially large measure, a faculty which all of us have in some measure,—the power to see and enjoy beauty in the forms and shapes and colors of things, beauty in proportions, beauty in outlines, beauty in gradations and in contrasts of light and shade, beauty in the countless lovely hues to be found all around us on the earth and in the skies. And besides this power to see beauty himself, he had a marvellous ability to show beauty to other people through drawing and painting. People still travel thousands of miles for the sake of seeing some of the works of his skillful hand, treasured in various parts of Europe.

A large number of his best-known pictures represent the same general subject, though the paintings are very different,—the young Christ in the arms of his mother, Mary. "Madonnas," such pictures are called, from two Italian words meaning "my lady." Probably the most popular favorite of all is one known as the Madonna of the Chair; it has the shape of a circle instead of the usual oblong; a gracious young mother holds a beautiful baby in her arms, while an older child (meant to suggest the boy who afterwards became known as John the Baptist) stands by her knee. It is said that no other picture in the world has been so many times reproduced in photographs and engravings, and so widely loved.

FATHER'S OWN COLUMN.

HOW BIRDS HELP THE FARMER.

In order to judge the birds fairly, we must think of what they do in the open country, and during the winter as well as the summer months. It is in winter that their most substantial work for us is done. All insects pass through the winter either as eggs or in the chrysalis stage. Some even pass through it as caterpillars. And many of the most mischievous of these insects are far too small for human eyes to see. But they are not overlooked by the keen spectacles of a hungry bird. Cold does not kill insects; the eggs and chrysalides may be frozen into bits of ice, brittle as glass, and yet come to life in due time. When we say that a hard winter kills insects it is true, in a certain way, because it brings about their death; but it is the birds and not the cold which kills the insects. A long frost or heavy fall of snow will cause birds to hunt more eagerly than they would do in milder seasons. They find grubs or eggs sticking to every wall, post and paling, or even scattered over the ground.

The chickadee, nuthatch, woodpecker, and other birds are searching in the tree trunks and along the fences for the eggs and buried larvæ of insects, which would, if not disturbed, hatch out millions of flying and crawling creatures that would destroy the garden, orchard, and field.

THE BOOK AND MAGAZINE CLUB.

Send all offers and requests for this department to Mrs. W. B. Nichols, 25 Fairmount Way, Quincy, Mass., Tel. Quincy 1140.

Please remember, when you see a request for a book in the Book Club, to write a card to Mrs. Nichols, asking "Shall I send such a book to such a person?" before sending it, else the person who requests it may receive several copies. When any one writes directly to you, asking for a book offered by you, send a card to Mrs. Nichols, saying that you have sent it. When you receive more requests than you can meet, send these to the Book Club to be printed here.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

Mrs. Eliza Foley from Dodson to Bassett, Virginia.

Misses Minnie and Fannie Foley, same change as above.

Mrs. Herbert Walker from Traffic to Red Oak, Virginia.

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Cherry from Elkhart to Lamesa, Texas.

Mrs. A. E. Hicks from Monroe to Amherst, Virginia, Route 3.

Mrs. Ella Simmons from Athens to Malakoff, Texas, Route 3.

Mrs. Mary Heckard from Oklahoma to Van Buren, Arkansas.

Mrs. Roy Payne from Keystone to Lewellen, Nebraska.

Mrs. J. G. Hartsoe from Bina to Crumpler, North Carolina, Route 2, Box 24.

OFFERS.

The Cambridge Branch offers the following books. Address Mrs. Henry R. Bowser, 36 Lancaster Street, Cambridge 40, Mass. "Industrial Europe," Allen; "Our Country and its People," Monroe; "History of Rome," Botsford; "History of Greece," Myers; "History of Western Europe," Robinson; "European Hero Stories," Tappan; "The British Isles," Tomlinson; "Representative Poems of Burns and Carlyle's Essay on Burns"; "The Plays of Sheridan"; "Poems and Plays of Goldsmith"; "Julius Cæsar," "The Merchant of Venice," Shakespeare; "Lays of Ancient Rome," Macaulay; "L'Allegro, Il Penseroso, Comus and Lycidas," Milton; Arithmetics; Primers and Readers; "English Literature."

The following books are offered through Mrs. F. C. Brush, 29 High Street, Montclair, New Jersey: "Christian Belief and Life," Peabody; "The Sketch Book," Irving; "Old Testament Selections," Snyder; "Faithful to Light," Cheney; Selections from *The Spectator* (1711-14); "Sir Roger de Coverley Papers," Steele and Addison; "Prologue to the Knight's Tale," Chaucer; "The Wonder Book," Hawthorne; "The Lady of the Lake," Scott; "Tales from Shakespeare," Lamb; Parsons's "Land of Fairplay"; "The Unchanging East," Barr; "The Daughter of an Egyptian King," Ebers; "European Hero Stories," "The Story of the Greek People," Tappan; "History of Western Europe," Robinson; "Selections from Livy, Sallust, and Cicero"; "Outlines of Roman History," Morey; "Readings in Ancient History (Rome)," Davis; "Short History of England," Cheyney; "A First History of England," Creighton; "An Inland Voyage," "Travels with a Donkey," Stevenson; "Selections from Lincoln," Draper; "Idylls of the King," Tennyson; "A Book of Nature Myths," Holbrook; "Monte Cristo," Dumas; "England's Story," Tappan; "Eugénie Grandet," Balzac; "Cranford," Mrs. Gaskell; "Chronicles of Count Antonio," Hope; "One Year of Pierrot"; "The Shield of the Fleur-de-Lis," Du Bois; "Seed Travelers" (studies of the methods of dispersal of common weeds), Weed; "The Greatest Thing ever Known," Trine; "First Steps in Electricity," Barnard; "Our First Century,—a History of American Life," Eagleston; "Ballads of New

England," Whittier; "Beginner's Psychology," Titchener; "Briefer Course in Psychology," James; "Dramatic Versions of Greek Myths and Hero Tales," Comstock; "Cæsar's Civil War," Perrin; Homer's "Odyssey," Palmer; "The Story of the Odyssey," Brooks; "Lays of Ancient Rome," Macaulay; "The Boys' King Arthur"; "Golden Numbers" (selected poems), Wiggin and Smith. "Last Journals of Palestine and Masai Land," 1884-85. Also the following paper-covered booklets: "Minor Poems of Milton"; "Essay on Milton," Macaulay; "Sir Roger de Coverley Papers" (parts 1 and 2), Addison; "A Christmas Carol," Dickens. Also, through Mrs. Brush, the following school text-books: "First Book in Geography," Tarr and McMurray; "Elementary Geography," Morton; "Advanced Geography," Dodge; "Elementary Algebra," Somerville; "Latin for Beginners," "High School Mathematics," D'orge; "Plane Geometry," "Junior High School Mathematics (I.)," Wentworth and Smith; "Exercise Manual in Arithmetic (I.)," Wentworth and Hill; "New School Algebra," "Practical Arithmetic," "Elementary Algebra," Wentworth; "Intermediate Arithmetic," Stone and Miller; "Solid Geometry," Wells and Hart; "Children's Third Reader," Cyr; "Elements of English Grammar," Sharp; "English Literature," Long; "Fairy Tales" (Heart-of-Oak Book 3); "Essentials in English," Pearson and Kirschney; "English Grammar," Carpenter; "Essentials of English Grammar," Gemmill; "Handbook of Composition," "Foundation Lessons in English," Woolley; "A Graded List of Common Words Difficult to Spell"; "New Practical Speller," Penniman; "Lessons in Speaking, Reading, and Writing English" (The Mother Tongue, Book 1), "Elementary English Grammar" (The Mother Tongue, Book 2), Kittredge and Arnold; "Modern English Grammar," Buehler; "Enlarged Practice Book in English Composition," Hitchens; "School History of England," Niver; "History of the United States," Thwaite-Kendall; "My Country (for Young Americans)," Tarkington; "History of the United States," Mace; "First Course in American History (Vol. II.)," Hodgdon; "History of the Middle Ages," "The Story of Europe," Harding; "The Story of the Roman People," Tappan; "American History," Muzzey; "Latin Grammar," Bennett; "Latin Prose Composition," Arnold; "New Latin Grammar," Allen and Greenough; "Beginning Latin," Barss; "High School Course in Latin Composition," Baker and Inglis; "Selections from the Latin Classics"; "Astronomy," Lockyer; "Elementary Biology," Huxley and

Martin; "Practical Physics," Black and Davis; "School Civics," Boynton; "General Chemistry," Newell; "The Human Mechanism," Hough and Sedgwick; "Paul and Victor," Strassbourg (with notes and vocabulary).

The Brighton Branch offers the following list. Address Miss C. L. Murdock, 320 Allston Street, Brookline 47, Mass. "John Halifax, Gentleman," Mulock; "Amarilly of Clothes-Line Alley," Maniates; "Elementary American History," Montgomery; "Poems," Frances Dana Gage; "Danny Fists," Camp; "Soldiers Three and Other Stories," Kipling; "My Girls," Churchill; "Some Say," Richards; "Fagots and Flames," Blanchard; "The Outdoor Girls of Deepdale," "The Outdoor Girls in Florida," "The Outdoor Girls in a Winter Camp," Hope; "Molly Brown's Freshman Days," Speed; "Our Young Folks in Africa," McCabe; "The Voyage of the *Vivian*," "Boy Travelers in Egypt and the Holy Land," Knox. Also Cook Books, and several odd numbers of *Good Housekeeping* in 1919, 1920, and 1921.

The Needham Branch offers two hundred bound volumes of responsive devotional readings, suitable for church worship. Address Dr. Mary F. Hobart, Needham Heights 94, Mass.

Miss Maria Weston, 170 Arlington Street, Wollaston, Mass., offers "Sketches from English History," "Walks and Talks in the Geological Field," "Recreations in Astronomy," "Outlines of Political Economy," "Preparatory Latin Course in English," "College Latin Course in English," and a "Classic French Course in English."

The Brookline (First Parish) Branch offers the following books. Address Miss M. W. Suter, 116 Warren Street, Brookline, Mass. Baedeker's Handbooks for travellers in London, Great Britain, Northern Italy, the Alps, the Maritime Provinces, Switzerland; "The Young Visitors," Bashford; "Life of Frances Power Cobbe," by herself; "An American at Oxford," Corbin; "Cemeteries of Abydos," The Egypt Exploration Fund; "Gerrit Smith," Frothingham; "Diet and Food," Haig; "Memoir of Mary L. Ware," Hall; "Life of George Peabody," Hanaford; "An Arctic Boat Journey," Hayes; "The Black Man's Burden," Holzclaw; "Games," Hoyle; "William Lloyd Garrison," Johnson; "Linda,—The Life of a Slave-Girl," by herself; "Poetical Works," Montgomery; "Manual of Military Training," Moss;

"The Rubaiyat," Omar Khayyám; "Samuel E. Sewell," Tiffany; "Tuskegee and its People," Washington; "Life and Correspondence of Theodore Parker," Weiss.

REQUESTS.

1. Mrs. J. Becker, Fort Niagara, New York, wishes to express her grateful appreciation to all who have remembered her. She lost some addresses, and takes this way to reach friends. She would like to receive silk or velvet scraps, and novels.

2. We are little girls aged ten and eight. We would like to have some scraps to make our dolls dresses, and some bits of ribbon. We haven't been able to attend school since Christmas. Ada and Edna Foley, Bassett, Virginia.

3. Mrs. Elva Robinson, Marion, Virginia, wishes to thank the Exchange and all friends for the many Christmas cards and magazines received in 1920. She will appreciate any current literature that can be sent in 1922. The reading matter is passed on to others; many things go to ex-service men in the hospitals and at the Davis Clinic.

4. I wish to express my thanks for the books, cards, and magazines that were sent me by Cheerful Letter friends; I appreciate good reading matter so much. Would be glad if some one could send me regularly the *Ladies' Home Journal* or *Good Housekeeping*. I enjoy them very much. Mrs. R. L. Porter, Meigs, Georgia, R.F.D

5. I would appreciate it so much if some one could send me *Needlecraft* or *The Home Needle Worker*. Odd copies would be acceptable. I should enjoy the *Ladies' Home Journal* or any good magazines or books. I am very lonely in a new place where I have no near neighbors. Elizabeth, thirteen years of age, would like "Five Little Peppers Grown Up," "Joel Pepper," or any of the "Katydid" series except "What Katy Did." Lewis, fifteen years old, would like any Scout books or tales of adventure. I hope I have not asked for too much. Mrs. A. E. Hicks, Amherst, Virginia, Route 3.

6. Just a word of thanks to the Cheerful Letter friends for patchwork pieces and Christmas cards. I would be very glad to be remembered with a birthday shower on February twentieth. I feel so grateful to the Lord for his tender love and care and for my having such good friends as you all have been to me and my dear mother. Miss Alberta

Richardson, Wadesboro, North Carolina, Route 1, Box 81.

7. I come asking for books and magazines of any kind, especially for *McCall's Magazine* and for pieces for patchwork for my invalid mother, to help her to pass away the hours. Miss Grace Saunders, Tellico Plains, Tennessee.

8. Mrs. A. J. McQueen, Rowland, North Carolina, Box 207, asks for "Alice in Wonderland," also for back numbers of the *Christian Endeavor World* for 1921.

9. It has been more than twelve months since I received any reading matter. I would be so glad to see the *Ladies' Home Journal* or any good story papers, and I sure would appreciate "Pilgrim's Progress." Any kind of pieces for my quilts would be welcome. My two little girls, Elsie (seven) and Esther (four), would be pleased with picture-books and postal cards. I am in very poor health for the last six months. Mrs. C. W. Foley, Bassett, Virginia.

10. I should be so glad if you could send me some books and magazines for myself and the children. I have just moved here, and everybody is a stranger to me. Two of the children are sick and I cannot leave them and get out to do anything. Mrs. Ada L. Turner, Bassett, Virginia.

11. We have enjoyed *The Cheerful Letter* that some friend has been sending us,—and other reading too. I would like to ask for more good magazines and books for my husband; also some story-books for our little boy, four years old. Any scraps of calico or gingham for quilts would be appreciated. Mrs. O. S. Owen, Wallace, North Carolina.

12. Mrs. J. H. Howard, Wingate, North Carolina, will be glad if some one will send her patchwork scraps and reading matter. Her husband is away working, and she is alone with a young baby.

13. Will you please send me some reading? I do not take any paper and I live in a lonely place. I would be proud of a paper. I have a husband and three little children. Mrs. Carrie Clanton, Spencer, Virginia.

14. I want to thank all who sent my sister (Cooper Hatcher) pieces for patchwork. She would be ever so thankful for more. Her only way of making anything is by piecing

quilts and selling them. Mrs. Mildred Alley, Germantown, North Carolina.

15. I wish to thank all you dear Cheerful Letter friends for your kindness in sending me reading matter, for the many nice letters I have received, and for the Christmas greetings. I certainly am grateful to you all for your encouragement and help! I pass on all the reading matter I get. I would be glad to have the *Delineator* after some one else is through with it, or any good magazine. Will you send some reading matter to my daughter, Mrs. Moore Altman, Wauchula, De Soto County, Florida? She lives in the country, away from any of her people, and is lonely. She married a soldier in 1917 and has two small children. I would like to receive some Unitarian literature. Mrs. J. Porter, Doerun, Georgia, Route 3.

16. Milver Campbell, a thirteen-year-old girl living in the country, three miles from school, asks for reading matter and a correspondent. Her address is Martinsville, Virginia.

17. I should appreciate some good reading and pictures for my little niece, four years old. (My pastor is Rev. F. W. Osborn, Farmville, Virginia, Route 1.) I would be glad to correspond with some of the Cheerful Letter friends. Miss A. A. Simpson, Farmville, Virginia, Route 5.

18. I wish to thank the friends who have so kindly remembered me in the past. I have not received much lately. I would be so glad if I might get *The Cheerful Letter* and *Needlecraft*. Miss Carrie Duggins, Madison, North Carolina, Route 3, Box 99.

19. My husband and I are both getting old and afflicted, and have to stay close at home; we are not now able to work as we have been. My husband will be sixty-one in February. It is a long while since I last wrote. I should be grateful and thankful for any kind of patchwork pieces,—calico, gingham, percale, or silk. The year just past was one of the dryest I ever saw. Reading matter would be welcome to help while away the hours. May God bless the good work of the dear old *Cheerful Letter*, which certainly has brought cheer to so many,—especially to me myself, in poor health for twenty-eight years, with no hope of ever being well again in this life! But I am looking forward to the great Beyond, where sickness and sorrow, want and pain never come. I would so much like to have a calendar for 1922. Mrs. Henry Nelson, Critz, Virginia.

20. The *Geographic Magazine* is asked for by Miss Elsie Harrington, Swatara, Minnesota.

21. I should appreciate the *American Magazine* and any other magazines after they have been read. (Reference, Rev. C. W. Johnson, Ben Hur, Arkansas.) Mrs. T. A. Collins, Ben Hur, Arkansas.

22. I should appreciate any books, papers, or magazines. I live in the Boston Mountains, where neighbors are few and far between; reading matter is very scarce. (Reference, Rev. C. W. Johnson, Ben Hur, Arkansas.) Mrs. Ada Standridge, Ben Hur, Arkansas.

23. Mrs. Maggie Foley, Buffalo Ridge, Virginia, a soldier's wife, will be glad of reading.

24. Mrs. C. M. Kingsley, Copeland, Arkansas, wishes to thank those who have sent her reading, and hopes to be remembered through the winter.

25. Mrs. J. R. Drumheller, Forks of Buffalo, Virginia, wishes to thank those who have sent to her and the children, especially at Christmas-time.

26. Margaret Williams, Naola, Virginia, twelve years of age, would be pleased with scraps or crochet cotton. Her mother, Mrs. Lelia, has been in the hospital with typhoid, and lost the addresses of friends, so she could not personally send her thanks for past favors; but she takes this way to express her appreciation.

27. I would like very much to receive a Bible with large print, and also some story-books for my four-year-old grandson. I would be specially glad to have "Uncle Remus." Some scraps for quilt pieces would help pass away lonely hours. I am a widow. Many thanks for past favors. Mrs. Alice Ward, Wallace, North Carolina, Route 1, Box 112.

28. I am a little girl nine years old, and I go to school. We have just moved. I would love to get some books, and to have cards and letters from some Cheerful Letter girl of my age. Effie M. Turner, Bassett, Virginia.

29. I am a girl fourteen years old, in the seventh grade at school, and have four little sisters. I enjoy good books and magazines; and, if it is not asking too much, I would so

like for you to send some story and picture books for them. We will lend them to our playmates, who will be glad to have them. (Reference, Rev. Wint Bolton, Shawanee, Tennessee.) Margaret Lillie Bussell, Shawanee, Tennessee.

30. The *Geographic Magazine* is asked for by, J. L. Candell, Jefferson, North Carolina.

31. Will some one please send me some reading for myself and the children and the neighbors? Unless we have sunshine real soon, we are mud-bound. We would like any kind of books, magazines, and papers, new or old. Thank you for the reading I have received in the past. Mrs. Ada V. Wann, Waxahachie, Texas, Route A.

32. Wilmer Ragsdale, Trail, Oregon, asks for the *Youth's Companion*.

33. Mrs. Roy Payne, Lewellen, Nebraska, writes: "Perhaps you do not realize how much your Book Club means to us out here in the sandhills, with no place to go and no library nor bookstore near. Any books or magazines will be enjoyed by our own family and passed on to other lonely people."

34. I shall finish at the high school this spring, and in July I want to stand the teachers' examination, so as to teach school the next year. I want to teach in the primary grades. I would appreciate any books or magazines that help along that line. I intend to study at home as much as possible. I would like very much to have the *Normal Instructor*, and any of the works of Shakespeare and Tennyson. Could somebody please send me "Hypatia," by Charles Kingsley? Florence Collins, Bluffton, Georgia, R. F. D.

35. If any one will send books to help an active pastor with very little theological or literary training, who is trying hard to succeed, I shall greatly appreciate it, and will pass them on to him. For my own reading I specially wish to have Allen's "Church History in its Three Great Epochs," Hunter's (or any good) "Biology," Drummond's "Ascent of Man," a work on Rural Sociology, a book on the latest Sunday-school methods, organization, and management; also some modern works on Elementary Education. Story-books, old papers and magazines for my school of seventy pupils here would be greatly appreciated. I shall be here *two more months*. M. N. Royal, Jackson's Gap, Alabama.

36. Mrs. Jessie F. Mosley, Delaplaine, Arkansas, Route 1, Box 91, is grateful for past favors. She asks for a Life of Robert Burns or any good reading, which will be passed on to others. She would like also to receive crochet cotton.

37. Miss Verdie A. Hall, Dodson, Virginia, and Miss Dovie Wright at the same address, would be glad of stories and similar light reading, also scraps of gingham and calico.

THE MOTHERS' COUNCIL.

TEACHING THE BABY TO WALK.

In recent years, doctors and others who are interested in child study have advised that babies be "let alone." They declare that much handling of the infant is not good for the health of its body or of its mind. Dancing the baby, tossing it in the air, kissing it, and playing with it tire the child, and excite it injuriously. The little baby needs quiet, and the less older persons disturb it and talk to it, the better.

That is all sound doctrine, but by and by the time comes when the child needs a little wise help if it is to develop properly. Left alone in the bed for the first few months, it will get all the exercise it needs by kicking and clawing the air, provided its limbs are not swathed in too many clothes or weighed down by heavy bedclothing; but when it has learned to use its muscles and gained some idea of space and direction, and when its bones have begun to harden, it is time to teach it the difficult art of walking. It cannot learn that in the bed, and will learn it slowly on the floor by itself.

First of all, teach the baby to creep. When it has acquired that accomplishment, begin the walking lessons. Hold the baby upright, with its feet resting squarely on the floor, and then carry it forward slowly while another person raises first one foot and then the other, and plants each ahead, in its turn. Move the child's body so that its centre of gravity is transferred from one foot to the other alternately. In that way the child will learn very quickly to balance itself, and soon it can stand alone for a few seconds. By and by it will try to move forward of its own accord. —*The Youth's Companion.*

Be thankful if your own soul has been spared perplexity, and judge not those to whom a harder lot has been given.—*George Eliot.*

THE AMUSEMENT CORNER.

1.

TWISTED AUTOMOBILES.

1. Geap.
2. Cipere Rawor.
3. Kpracad.
4. Dhsuon.
5. Aaonkdl.
6. Pslixem.

—*The Beacon.*

2.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.

In word, but not in song.
In house, but not in barn.
In ice, but not in water.
In tea, but not in coffee.
In Thomas, but not in Henry.
In hickory, but not in oak.
In paper, but not in ink.
In rain, but not in snow.
My whole is the name of a poet.

Answers to puzzles in the February number.

1. CONUNDRUMS: 1. Because the English have command of the C's (seas). 2. One has claws at the end of the paws, and the other is a pause at the end of a clause. 3. Cabinet-makers.

2. TWISTED AUTOMOBILES: 1. Ford. 2. Cadillac. 3. Buick. 4. Dodge. 5. Maxwell. 6. Fiat.

3. A WORD SQUARE: **NIGHT
IDLER
GLADE
HEDGE
TREES**

CHILDREN'S CLASSICS.

ABOUT SOME IRISH FAIRIES.

One specially famous Irish fairy is the Leprechaun,—or, as he is called in the districts around Cork, the Clurichaun. He too looks like a little old man, and he knows where wonderful treasures are hidden. People who are so lucky as to have a sight of him always try to get him to give them a share of his hidden riches. This is one of the stories about him: One night a farmer, who had been hard at work all day hauling turf from the bog to a stack near his cottage, found himself rested and comfortable after eating supper, and he thought, "I hope the old mare is rested and comfortable too; she had a hard day of it, poor thing!" So he went to the stable to see that the faithful beast was all right. There she stood, eating her hay; but she seemed a bit nervous, and there was a queer noise in

the stable,—*rap-tap-tap, rap-tappity-tap*. It sounded like a wee small shoemaker hammering the sole of a shoe; and all the time the farmer could hear the soft whistling of the prettiest tune he had ever heard in his life.

"It's the Leprechaun for certain," thought the farmer; "but where in the world has he hid himself?" He went about on tiptoe, looking and looking; and at last where do you suppose he found the fairy shoemaker? Sitting in the loose girth that the mare wore to hold her blanket on; sitting there just as a man might sit on a log. The Little Man was so busy with his *rap-tap-tapping* and his whistling of the fairy tune, that he never

noticed the farmer's coming, until—*grab!*—there he was, held fast in the farmer's big right hand, as if he had been a baby rabbit!

"I have ye now," said the farmer, "so give me your gold." "I can't move enough to take it out of my pocket, you squeeze me so," scolded the Leprechaun, quite vexed at the way in which he had been caught. "Open your fingers a little; you're hurting me."

And of course the farmer loosened his fingers. But the instant he did so the cunning Little Man slipped through them, and *whisht!* away he was gone, so fast you couldn't see the way of it. And the farmer could hear him laughing.

THE CHEERFUL LETTER EXCHANGE.

ITS PURPOSE

To cheer and comfort those who are ill, lonely, or discouraged, through the exchange of letters, and by gifts of books and magazines.

To help those who live far from schools, or who wish to continue their studies by means of correspondence with a teacher.

To give to those living far from church some of the helps which churches give. One good sermon or similar article is printed in each number. These sermons are never doctrinal, but present only such simple religious truths and principles as are agreed on by all churches.

WHERE TO WRITE

1. *Letters paying for subscriptions to the paper*, fifty cents a year, should be sent to the Cheerful Letter Exchange, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass. Checks or postal orders should be made payable to the Cheerful Letter Exchange.

2. *Letters asking for correspondents, for books, magazines, cards, etc., also letters offering to give books, magazines, etc.*, should be sent to Mrs. W. B. Nichols, 25 Fairmount Way, Quincy, Mass.

See special suggestions directly under the heading of the "Book and Magazine Club" in this number.

3. *Letters asking for help in studying at home* should be sent to Mrs. George G. Saville, 30 Woodward Avenue, Quincy, Mass.

The Home Study Committee has on hand a variety of schoolbooks which may be used by students either at home or in the schoolroom. The aim of the teachers is to help in any study where help is needed. Often this may fit a person for a higher grade of work.

4. *Letters asking for music and letters offering music* should be sent to Mrs. Thomas Lacey, 35 East 30th Street, New York City, or to All Souls Church, Fourth Avenue and 20th Street, New York City.

There is more and more interest in "community" or neighborhood singing.

5. *Letters about the establishment of Circulating Libraries* should be sent to Mrs. H. A. Stevens, 76 Edgemere Road, Quincy, Mass.

A Circulating Library will be started in any small community needing one, if proper location and care can be furnished and satisfactory references can be given. One hundred and four such libraries are now on our lists.

6. The Secretary of the Cheerful Letter Exchange, Mrs. Francis Hastings, Kendal Green, Mass., should receive the more general correspondence from workers on the local committees, or from others interested in the organization and its methods.

Notice to those who give:—

Only books of an instructive or wholesomely amusing character should be offered. Classics, educational works, and standard novels and magazines are always acceptable.

There is a large call for scraps of calico, gingham, and percale for patchwork.

To those who receive:—

It is a rule of the Cheerful Letter Exchange that no one ask for money or for clothing in the columns of this paper. The name of any person who fails to obey this rule will be dropped from our list. Any worker receiving such a request should send the letter at once to headquarters.